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SUBJECT: The North Korean 5 Corps and Its Engineer Battalion

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1. The North Korean 5 Corps is composed of the 12, 16, 32, and 6 Divisions and has an engineer battalion attached to it. The corps strength is approximately 7,000, the division strength 2,300, and the regiment strength about 300 men. The corps is commanded by Lt. General PANG Ho-sun (潘虎善), aged 26, originally from Yenan. The 32 Division was transferred to South Hwangyong on 28 April 1951. The 6 Division includes the 1, 3, and 15 Regiments. The 3 Regiment has three battalions: the 1 Battalion, known in the field as the 121 Unit, containing the 1, 2, and 3 Companies; the 2 Battalion containing the 4, 5, and 6 Companies; and the 3 Battalion, known in the field as the 659 Unit, containing the 7, 8, and 9 Companies.
2. The engineer battalion attached to the 5 Corps began withdrawing in the latter part of March 1951 from Hongch'on (125-58, 37-58) to Anjon-ni in Kumgang-san (126-08, 38-10), where it received 31 replacements from the engineer reserve unit. After about 20 days, the battalion moved to Sangpyong-ni (127-33, 38-04), Hoeyang County, where the new replacements received two weeks of elementary military training. On 18 April, the battalion moved to Inje (128-11, 38-04), then, guided by reconnaissance units, buried about 30 mines on the highway between Inje and Yanggu (127-59, 38-06). On 24 April, the battalion was attacked by United Nations forces eight kilometers southwest of Inje and became completely disorganized.
3. The engineer battalion was commanded by Junior Colonel YI Pyóng-sum (易炳善), aged 28, who had served with the Chinese Communist 8 Route Army. His chief of staff was Major YU Pok-sum (于伯順), aged 25, who was transferred to the 6 Division. Deputy military commander of the battalion was Major KIM To-sum (金道淳), aged 32, from Manchuria, and the deputy political commander was Captain KIM Yong-yul (金永祿), aged 27, of unknown origin. There was a battalion propaganda worker named KIM (金).
4. The battalion soldiers were issued a summer uniform each, with underwear, socks, and cap, when they were in Pyongyang. After that they received nothing, and

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their food had to be commandeered from the local population. The members of the battalion, officers and men, who came from China had absolute confidence in the combat strength of the Chinese Communist armies, and their morale was high; other members of the battalion were pessimistic about the war situation.

5. On 17 April, the engineer battalion arrested, in the vicinity of Wonsan, a Republic of Korea agent and an American soldier, in uniform and carrying a pistol, who had landed by parachute. On the following day, the 5 Corps reconnaissance company arrested three women agents, aged 19 to 21, who had come from the Republic of Korea into the Kosong (128-19, 38-40) area of Kangwon Province.

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1. [REDACTED] Comment. These figures do not tally. Possibly the Corps strength is a little over 9 000 men.

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2. [REDACTED] Comment. This is probably the PANG Ho-san, also known as PANG He-sang and YI Ch'on-puk, who was reported by [REDACTED]

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